
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks, Facilities and Recreation Programming Master Plan will guide planning, design, operations and maintenance of the City of Morgan Hill's Parks and Recreation System for the next twenty years.

Goal

The Parks and Recreation Commission adopted the following goal to guide development of the master plan:

A comprehensive system of high-quality parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs that meet the existing and future needs of the community, enhance partnerships, contribute to the City's scenic quality, identity and livability, and are sustained over time.

Process and Opportunities for Public Input

The Parks and Recreation Commission served as the advisory task force for preparation of the master plan. Monthly review of the master plan was held during regular Commission meetings that were open to the public.

The Master Planning process included several opportunities for public input. These included numerous community meetings, interviews and meetings with recreation providers, and a random telephone survey.

Population and Park Acreage Needs

Morgan Hill's population in 2000 has been estimated at 32,000, and is projected to grow to 46,600 by the year 2020. With a recommended standard of 5 acres per thousand population, and existing parkland acreage estimated at 85.8 acres, Morgan Hill has a current parkland deficit of 74.2 acres. A total of 147.2 acres of additional parkland will be needed to achieve the 5 acre per thousand population standard in 2020. The Parkland Classification System found in Chapter 3 defines different types of parkland. Chapter 4 includes recommendations of how to calculate parkland acres toward this standard.

Neighborhood Park Distribution

New parks should be located to maximize access to all residents. Where feasible, new neighborhood parks should be distributed so that all residents live within walking distance of a neighborhood or community park. (Walking distance is defined as within a 1/2-mile radius of the park. This may not be feasible in all neighborhoods, especially hillside neighborhoods.) The map in Chapter 4 illustrates current park distribution within the community. The map in Chapter 5 indicates targeted areas for future neighborhood parks based on current neighborhood park deficiencies.

Since new elementary schools are being considered in many areas that also have a neighborhood park deficiency, coordination is recommended with MHUSD to select sites suitable for schools/neighborhood parks.

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Community Recreation Facility Needs

An assessment of community recreation needs has identified a number of facility types that are needed to meet existing and future demand. These are noted below:

- Additional sports fields for league and informal play
- Additional tennis courts
- Aquatics facilities
- Indoor recreation facilities
- Walking and bicycling trails
- Permanent Skate Park
- BMX Park
- Dog off-leash area

Community Recreation Program Needs

Several agencies and organizations provide recreation programs for Morgan Hill residents. In addition to programs at new facilities, the City should provide programs in-house, or partner with other recreation providers to provide programs in the following areas:

- Visual and performing arts programs
- Drop-in after school and summer parks programs
- Youth-oriented field trips
- Special events and City festivals
- A scholarship program to assist with fees and equipment costs programs at proposed facilities, such as the senior, youth and aquatics centers
- Programs for citizens with disabilities
- Recreation programs at proposed new facilities

Enhanced partnerships with existing and potential new recreation partners are strongly encouraged, but in each case the City must carefully evaluate whether it should provide the recreation programs, or partner with another agency to provide recreation programs.

The City should also serve as a clearinghouse for recreation programs provided by multiple agencies and organizations.

Parks and Recreation Commission Preferred Scenario

The following scenario is the preferred arrangement of new parks and facilities to meet the community's parks and recreation needs. This table is also found in Chapter 5 of the master plan.

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Facility	Site Alternatives
Community Recreation Center This facility would include a large gymnasium, weight room, aerobics rooms, locker rooms, rest rooms etc. It would also include spaces for designated senior and youth programs, such as a multi-purpose room with kitchen (could be used for senior programs during the day and youth dances and concerts in the evening); game room; café/snack bar, etc. Careful site planning and programming would be needed to minimize potential conflicts between users. A 25 yard indoor pool may be included at the Community Recreation Center or the Aquatics Center. The final location of the indoor pool would be determined as part of business plans for both facilities.	Community Park Expansion (Gunderson and/or Public Works Corporation Yard)
Aquatics Center The Aquatics Center would include an outdoor recreation pool with slides and other recreation features, and a 50-meter outdoor competition pool. An indoor 25 yard pool is proposed for either the Aquatics Center or the Community Recreation Center, to be determined as part of business plans for both facilities. The outdoor recreation pool would be open seasonally for the public, with the outdoor competition pool open year-round for use by swim teams, competitions, etc. The indoor 25 yard and therapy pools would be open year-round for community use. Other features would include locker rooms, rest rooms, a grassy area for picnics, spectator seating, and concession area. Phasing of pools, if needed, would be determined as part of a business plan.	Tennant/Condit/Dunne Corridor; "Pumpkin Patch"
Sports Park/Soccer Complex Combination sports park/soccer complex with 8 fields, to be divided between baseball and softball uses, and 6 multi-use soccer fields, sand volleyball courts, lighting of some fields, restrooms, concession building, equipment storage, parking. Specific field configurations will be determined as a part of the design process. Other features (depending on acreage availability) may include: tennis courts, tot play area, picnic areas, climbing wall, skating rink, and batting cages. Permanent Skate Park and BMX Park could be co-located with Sports Park/Soccer Complex.	Tennant/Condit/Dunne Corridor; "Pumpkin Patch"
Skate Park Skating challenge elements, restroom access, emergency telephone access. Consider allowing bicycles to use at selected times/days. Could be a fee-based facility with supervision during hours of operation.	Co-locate with sports park/soccer park

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BMX Park Dirt bike trails with jumps; emergency phone access; restroom access.	Co-locate with sports park/soccer park; Locate as stand-alone facility at flood control basin
Dog Park Fenced or open area designated as dog off-leash area, signage and facilities for owners to clean up after their pets.	Request Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) develop at San Pedro Percolation Ponds; Request County to develop at Malaguerra or Silveira Park; Alternative location: new neighborhood park
New Neighborhood Parks See Classification System for program elements of neighborhood parks.	Adjacent to new school sites in areas currently underserved by neighborhood parks
Trails/Linear Parks Upaved pedestrian trails; paved pedestrian/bicycle trails; seating, signage, environmental interpretation, staging areas with security lighting where appropriate.	As shown in Bikeways Master Plan (along creeks and drainage channels); Butterfield Linear Park; Silveira and Malaguerra Parks; at San Pedro Percolation Ponds
Community Park Improved group picnic area, tennis center with expanded courts and “clubhouse”/concession area/restrooms, multi-use field, expanded and re-arranged on-site parking, possible pond.	
Theater 450 seat theater as originally proposed as a part of the Community and Cultural Center. A business plan should be completed for this facility prior to proceeding with design development or construction, which would include identification of an appropriate agency or organization to operate the facility.	Adjacent or within walking distance of the Community and Cultural Center.
YMCA The YMCA could continue to operate programs at the Friendly Inn. The senior nutritional program could stay at this location, or move to the proposed Community Recreation Center at the Community Park expansion. Facilities and programs at the Friendly Inn site could be expanded through a capital program if initiated by the YMCA.	Galvan Park
MACSA Center The MACSA Center would continue to operate at its current location adjacent to Galvan Park. Future facility expansion could occur on Galvan Park or at the Friendly Inn if no longer occupied by the YMCA.	Adjacent to Galvan Park

Capital Expense Budget

Based on the preferred scenario, capital costs (in year 2000 dollars) are estimated between \$49,075,000–86,465,000. This wide range is based on a great variation in potential land acquisition costs at different sites, as well as potential variation in final design programs. A number of revenue sources are identified to meet capital expenses, including redevelopment agency tax increment financing, park development impact fees, grants, donations and corporate sponsorships, and joint projects with other departments, agencies and non-profits. Until actual sites and development costs are finalized and revenue sources confirmed, two projects are recommended to be currently “unfunded”: the stand-alone theater, and improvements to the San Pedro Percolation Ponds. (It is hoped that funding can be established through a partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD).) The theater is proposed for later phases in the plan only if a business plan indicates the long-term viability of the project without significant City subsidy of long-term operations and maintenance costs.

Operations and Maintenance

Current General Fund allocations for recreation programs and parks maintenance total \$1,214,000. With potential cost recoveries projected for each new facility, the annual operations and maintenance budget is estimated to increase to between \$2,028,870–3,669,570, or double to triple the current operations and maintenance budget, when all proposed facilities are built. Chapter 6 explores several alternative funding mechanisms to provide a regular and consistent funding source for long-term operations and maintenance. (Neither Redevelopment Agency financing, nor development impact fees, can be used for this purpose.)

Business plans are proposed as part of the master planning process for each new major facility, which will include identification of long-term operations and maintenance implications, and potential cost recovery through user fees. The long-term cost implications of each facility must be clearly understood, and adequate funding sources established, prior to proceeding with project development. The Aquatics Center and Community Recreation Center business plans should be developed simultaneously and coordinated with each other.

Phasing

Chapter 7 provides a phasing plan for the recommended improvements, divided into three phases over 20 years. The following facilities are included in the first phase of the plan:

- Aquatics Center
- Community Recreation Center
- Community and Cultural Center
- Sports Park/Soccer Complex
- Community Park Improvements
- Permanent Skate Park (assumed complete in one phase)

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- Little Llagas Trail/Butterfield Linear Park
- BMX Park (assumed complete in one phase)
- MACSA expansion

Summary

The Parks, Facilities and Recreation Programming Master Plan provides an ambitious but achievable blueprint to meet recreation needs and enhance the community identity of Morgan Hill. Careful planning, enhanced partnerships, and active pursuit of multiple funding sources will be needed to turn this vision into reality.